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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-sixth session
3-28 June 1996 (Part I)
26 August-6 September 1996 (Part II)
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999;

   (d) Evaluation.

5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) Implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

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6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-sixth session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its thirty-fifth session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. At its thirty-sixth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely the Group of Eastern European States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 of 10 May 1979 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50 of 23 November 1979, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session, together with the list of documentation requested. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

3. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

In its resolution 45/254 A of 21 December 1990, the General Assembly decided to continue considering annually the administrative, structural and other aspects of the improvement of the efficiency of the Organization, and requested the Secretary-General to report accordingly.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee endorsed the measures on the establishment of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility to be taken by 1 January 1995 and recommended that future proposals should be submitted as appropriate to the General Assembly through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

At its thirty-fifth session, in reviewing its work methods and procedures, the Committee considered that it should be informed of the views and decisions of the Economic and Social Council regarding reports that it had submitted in accordance with its mandate. The Committee recognized the need to pay more in-depth attention to its coordinating role, which should be based on substantive issues. To that end, the Committee considered that it required a more detailed insight to the efforts of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and other relevant departments of the United Nations in that respect.

At its resumed forty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted decision 49/489 of 20 July 1995, by which it decided to defer until its fiftieth session consideration of the documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations and requested the Secretary-General to update his report on the restructuring of the Secretariat 1/ and to apprise the Assembly of the measures taken in order to implement the recommendations contained in his report on the establishment of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility. 2/

By its decision 50/469 of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly, owing to lack of time, decided to defer consideration of the documents relating to the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations to its resumed fiftieth session.

4. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995

Regulation 5.1 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation reads as follows:

> "The Secretary-General shall monitor the delivery of output scheduled in the approved programme budget through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period."

The Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/51/___)

(b) Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

In section I.B of its resolution 48/218 A of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly noted that in its current format the medium-term plan had a limited impact on the work of the Organization.

In the same resolution, the Assembly also noted with appreciation the recommendation by the Committee for Programme and Coordination that consideration be given to the possibility of replacing the current medium-term plan by a document prepared along a different format as outlined in paragraph 233 of its report, 3/ reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan, taking into account resolution 48/218 and the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee, and decided to give this issue in-depth

consideration at its forty-ninth session on the basis of the relevant documentation.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General containing a prototype of a new format of the medium-term plan. 4/ It welcomed the proposed new format, which would consist of a perspective and a programme framework for a period of four years, beginning in 1998, on the understanding that the relevant legislative mandates should be indicated in the narrative of the programmes and the narrative of the subprogrammes should reflect all the mandated activities. The Committee also recommended that the perspective should strictly observe the balance between persistent problems and emerging trends and should therefore be presented according to a structure as outlined in paragraph 111 of its report. 5/

The Committee stressed the need for further consultations with Member States and noted that, upon approval by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session of the new format, the Secretariat would begin drafting the plan for review, where feasible, by the specialized intergovernmental bodies prior to consideration by the Committee at its thirty-sixth session.

At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General on the new format of the medium-term plan together with the observations and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session 6/ and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. 7/ By its decision 49/464 of 20 July 1995, the Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Programme planning" to its fiftieth session.

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted decision 50/452 of 22 December 1995, by which it decided to authorize the Secretary-General to begin preparation of the proposed medium-term plan for the period after 1997, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-fourth session and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and taking into account the views expressed by Member States in the Fifth Committee, and requested the Secretary-General to submit the new medium-term plan for that period to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/___)

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

In accordance with annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the Secretary-General is to submit an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which will contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

In accordance with the same resolution, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, is to consider the outline of the programme budget and submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly through the Fifth Committee. By its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987, the Assembly decided that the date for submission of the outline of the programme budget should be 15 August of the off-budget year. The Committee will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 at its resumed thirty-sixth session, from 26 August to 6 September 1996.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/51/___)

(d) Evaluation

In accordance with regulation 6.4 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives. In this regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the relevant sections of General Assembly resolutions 36/228 B of 18 December 1981, 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A and B of 20 December 1983, 42/215 of 21 December 1987, 43/219 of 21 December 1988, 44/194 of 21 December 1989 and 45/253 of 21 December 1990.

The Committee will recall that, in section III of its resolution 47/214 of 23 December 1992, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session on the question of programme evaluation in the United Nations and urged the Secretary-General to improve the methodology for self-evaluation.

At its thirty-third session, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to include in his report on the evaluation to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session proposals on the phases of the evaluation process, the use of evaluation as an instrument to improve management and programme planning and the development of achievement indicators.

Also at its thirty-third session, the Committee recommended that:

(a) Future in-depth evaluation reports and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on them should be transmitted by the Secretariat to the relevant specialized intergovernmental bodies. The Chairman

of the Committee for Programme and Coordination will then request the Chairmen of the relevant bodies to provide the Committee with information on action taken by those bodies regarding its recommendations on the evaluations;

(b) In order for the triennial evaluation review to help units concerned to meet new challenges, future triennial reviews should be expanded, as needed, to address a small number of new relevant issues in addition to their primary purpose of assessing the extent of implementation of recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination three years before. If such needs arise, the Secretariat should obtain the approval of the Committee one year prior to its scheduled review of the relevant triennial review report.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a timetable for evaluation according to which it will undertake in 1996 in-depth evaluation of the programme of public information and peace-keeping operations: termination phase.

In accordance with regulation 6.4 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will undertake, at its thirty-sixth session, a triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. It will be recalled that, at its thirty-third session, the Committee reviewed the in-depth evaluation of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and endorsed the report of the Secretary-General and the recommendations therein.

Documentation

Strengthening of the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/51/___)

In-depth evaluation of public information (E/AC.51/1996/2)

In-depth evaluation of peace-keeping operations: termination phase (E/AC.51/1996/3)

Triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/AC.51/1996/4)

5. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995.

The Committee will also have before it the report of the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the

Administrative Committee on Coordination, held at Headquarters on 16 October 1995 (E/1996/4).

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995 (E/1996/___)

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1996/4)

(b) Implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development

At its thirty-second session, the Committee recommended that, since the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development represented the contribution of the United Nations system to the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, in accordance with paragraph 39 of section II of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the process of updating it should be carried out after each review of the implementation of the New Agenda by the General Assembly.

The Committee recommended that revisions be submitted for its consideration in 1994, 1996 and thereafter as it might decide.

At its thirty-fourth session, the Committee reaffirmed its previous recommendations to revise the System-wide Plan in 1997 and thereafter as it might decide. In that connection, the Committee requested that a progress report on the implementation of the Plan be submitted to it for consideration at its thirty-sixth session in 1996.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/1996/___)

6. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its organizational meeting each year, the Committee selects the Joint Inspection Unit reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the secretariat of the Unit, including the titles of reports projected for the following two years.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to General Assembly resolution 42/218 of 21 December 1987, by which the Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of the Joint Inspection Unit which were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237 of 21 December 1990.

In its resolution 48/221 of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited the Joint Inspection Unit, in its future work programmes, to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation to ensure optimum use of funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations system. It also requested the Joint Inspection Unit, when appropriate, to provide in its reports information on estimated financial implications or possible cost savings resulting from implementation of the recommendations formulated therein.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly called upon the Joint Inspection Unit to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and to include the relevant information regularly in its annual reports. The Assembly also invited the Joint Inspection Unit to maintain a close relationship with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the International Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors and organizations and bodies within the United Nations system in order to ensure greater and more cost-effective coordination of their respective activities for the promotion of management efficiency, greater accountability and transparency of the United Nations and other participating organizations, and requested the executive heads of the participating organizations to increase their efforts to make detailed and timely comments on Joint Inspection Unit reports and to ensure that their governing bodies considered those reports.

Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of its resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, by which it established the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the General Assembly decided that "the Board of Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit shall be provided with copies of all final reports produced by the Office as well as the comments of the Secretary-General on them and shall provide the Assembly with their comments as appropriate".

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-seventh session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-seventh session of the Committee.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-sixth session

The report of the Committee on its thirty-sixth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1996 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

Notes

1/ A/49/336.

2/ A/C.5/49/1.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/48/16), part two.

4/ A/49/301.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/49/16), part two.

6/ Ibid., paras. 110-114.

7/ A/49/958.

ANNEX I

Draft programme of work

ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION FOR 1996

Thursday, 2 May
(morning and afternoon)

Election of officers [1]

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work [2]

Provisional agenda and note by the Secretariat on the status of documentation for the session (E/AC.51/1996/1 and E/AC.51/1996/L.1).

Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6]

Selection of the report(s) to be considered by the Committee at its thirty-sixth session.

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION: FIRST PART

Monday, 3 June, and
Tuesday, 4 June
(morning and afternoon)

Programme questions [4]

(d) Evaluation

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/51/___).

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme of public information (E/AC.51/1996/2).

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the programme of peace-keeping operations: termination phase (E/AC.51/1996/3).

Triennial review of the in-depth evaluation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/AC.51/1996/4).

Wednesday, 5 June (morning)	Programme questions [4]
	(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995
	Report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for 1994-1995 (A/51/___).
Wednesday, 5 June (afternoon)	Coordination questions [5]
	(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the thirtieth series of the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination
	Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1995 (E/1996/___).
	Report of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-ninth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1996/4).
Thursday, 6 June (morning)	Coordination questions [5]
	(b) Implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development
	Progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (E/1996/___).
Thursday, 6 June (afternoon)	Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6]
	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [3]
Friday, 7 June (morning)	Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit [6]
	Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations [3]

Friday, 7 June (afternoon)	Informal consultations on: Programme questions [4] (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1994-1995
Monday, 10 June (morning)	Informal consultations on: Programme questions [4] (d) Evaluation
Monday, 10 June (afternoon)	Informal consultations on: Coordination questions [5]
Tuesday, 11 June, and Wednesday, 12 June (morning and afternoon)	Programme questions [4] (b) Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1998-2001 Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (in fascicle form) (A/51/___). Introduction and general discussion.
Thursday, 13 June, to Tuesday, 25 June (morning and afternoon)	Programme questions [4] (b) Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1998-2001 Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1998-2001 [programme by programme].
Wednesday, 26 June, to Thursday, 27 June (morning and afternoon)	Informal consultations on: Programme questions [4] (b) Proposed medium-term plan of the United Nations for the period 1998-2001
Friday, 28 June (morning and afternoon)	Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Committee [7] Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-sixth session [8]

THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION: SECOND PART
[TO BE COMMUNICATED AT A LATER DATE]

ANNEX II

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 1996

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	1996
Bahamas	1997
Belarus	1996
Benin	1997
Brazil	1996
Cameroon	1996
Canada	1996
China	1998
Comoros	1996
Congo	1996
Cuba	1996
Egypt	1998
France	1997
Germany	1996
Ghana	1997
India	1996
Indonesia	1996
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1996
Japan	1998
Mexico	1997
Netherlands	1996
Norway	1996
Pakistan	1996
Republic of Korea	1998
Romania	1996
Russian Federation	1997
Senegal	1996
Togo	1998
Trinidad and Tobago	1996
Ukraine	1996
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1996
United States of America	1997
Uruguay	1998
Zaire	1998